

The Breakfast Table Times

TODAY'S NEWS, MADE FOR KIDS

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TOP STORY

War Overseas Pushes Up Gas Prices at Home

WASHINGTON — Gas prices have jumped a lot this year. A war in the Middle East is one big reason. Fighting has disrupted the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway. About one-fifth of the world's oil normally passes through it. That disruption made oil harder and costlier to ship.

In the United States, regular gas has topped four dollars a gallon. That is about one dollar more than last year. President Trump met with fuel companies this week. He wants to find ways to bring prices down. The issue matters a lot before this fall's elections. Recent polls show many Americans are unhappy with how the war is being handled.

BACKGROUND

The war has disrupted a key shipping route for oil, making fuel more expensive worldwide.

Why it matters: Higher gas prices affect nearly every family's budget and could influence how people vote.

What to watch: Watch whether prices ease before the November midterm elections.

Source: Investing.com, <https://www.investing.com/news/commodities-news/trump-to-meet-refiners-fuel-retailers-as-iran-war-pressures-gas-prices-ahead-of-midterms-sources-say-4880014>; U.S. News, <https://www.usnews.com/news/top-news/articles/2026-08-27/trump-to-meet-refiners-fuel-retailers-as-iran-war-pressures-gas-prices-ahead-of-midterms-sources-say>

NATION & WORLD

China's Leader Makes Rare Visit to Egypt

CAIRO — China's President Xi Jinping traveled to Egypt this week. It was his first visit there in about ten years. The trip shows China wants to expand its influence. It comes as the United States deals with a costly war in Iran. That war has strained America's attention and resources. Some experts say U.S. influence abroad has weakened. Leaders worldwide are watching to see which country leads next.

China has been building stronger ties across Africa and the Middle East. Egypt is an important partner for trade and diplomacy.

BACKGROUND

Xi Jinping is the president of China, a country with major global economic and political influence.

Why it matters: Shifts in world leadership can change trade deals and alliances that affect many countries.

What to watch: See whether China and Egypt announce any new agreements after the visit.

Source: NPR World section, <https://www.npr.org/sections/world/>

Former Venezuelan Leader Asks Court to Drop Charges

NEW YORK — Nicolás Maduro was once the president of Venezuela. U.S. prosecutors have charged him with drug trafficking. Maduro and his wife want a judge to dismiss the case. They argue that former leaders have legal immunity. Immunity means protection from being prosecuted for official acts. The case has drawn attention from around the world. It raises questions about how courts treat former heads of state.

A judge will decide whether the case can move forward. The outcome could affect future cases against other leaders.

BACKGROUND

Maduro led Venezuela for years before facing international legal and political pressure.

Why it matters: The case could shape how the law treats former leaders accused of crimes.

What to watch: Watch for the judge's decision on whether the case can continue.

Source: NPR World section, <https://www.npr.org/sections/world/>

GOVERNMENT

Maine's Senate Race Draws National Attention

AUGUSTA, MAINE — Maine will hold one of the most closely watched Senate races in 2026. Republican Senator Susan Collins is running for a sixth term. She does not face a challenger in her own party's primary. Political experts expect a tough general election battle.

The race could help decide which party controls the Senate. Voters across Maine will follow the campaign closely this fall. Collins has represented Maine in Washington for many years. Her opponents say it is time for new leadership.

BACKGROUND

Control of the U.S. Senate can shift based on just a handful of close races each election.

Why it matters: The winner will help decide which party sets the national political agenda.

What to watch: Watch for Collins's opponents to announce their campaigns this fall.

Source: Wikipedia, "2026 United States Senate election in Maine," https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_United_States_Senate_election_in_Maine

GOVERNMENT (CONT.)

Maine Prepares for Open Governor's Race

AUGUSTA, MAINE — Maine's governor's race will look very different this year. Governor Janet Mills cannot run again because of term limits. Term limits stop a leader from serving too many terms in a row. That means Maine will elect a brand-new governor.

Several candidates are expected to enter the race. The election will shape state policy for years to come. Voters will choose their next governor this November. Many residents say they want a fresh start in Augusta.

BACKGROUND

Term limits are rules that require leaders to leave office after serving a set number of terms.

Why it matters: An open race often brings new ideas and candidates into state politics.

What to watch: Watch for more candidates to officially announce their campaigns.

Source: Wikipedia, "2026 Maine gubernatorial election," https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_Maine_gubernatorial_election

MONEY & WORK

Behind the Rising Price of Gas

WASHINGTON — Gas prices do not rise by accident. Oil prices climbed as high as \$112 a barrel during the war. That is much higher than normal prices. Shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz were disrupted by fighting.

Since then, some shipping has slowly returned to normal. Even so, prices at the pump remain much higher than last year. Families are paying more to fill their tanks and heat their homes. Economists say prices could stay high if the conflict continues.

BACKGROUND

Oil prices affect the cost of gasoline, heating, and many products that need to be shipped.

Why it matters: Rising costs can strain family budgets and change how people spend and travel.

What to watch: Watch oil prices for signs of whether costs will rise or fall further.

Source: Investing.com, <https://www.investing.com/news/commodities-news/trump-to-meet-refiners-fuel-retailers-as-iran-war-pressure-gas-prices-ahead-of-midterms-sources-say-4880014>

SPORTS

Yankees Rally Late to Beat Angels

ANAHEIM, CALIF. — The Yankees needed extra innings to beat the Angels on Wednesday. Pitcher Cam Schlichter allowed just one run in eight strong innings. The game stayed close until the tenth inning. New York then scored five runs with two outs.

Austin Wells, Cody Bellinger, Trent Grisham, and Ben Rice all drove in runs. The Yankees won the game six to three. Reliever David Bednar closed out the win in the ninth. New York will next travel to face the San Diego Padres.

BACKGROUND

A tenth-inning rally means the game was tied after the normal nine innings ended.

Why it matters: The win kept the Yankees' momentum going late in the season.

What to watch: Watch the Yankees' upcoming series against the Padres in San Diego.

Source: CBS Sports box score, https://www.cbssports.com/mlb/gametracker/boxscore/MLB_20260902_NYY@LAA/

Giants Set to Open Season Against Cowboys

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants are getting ready for a new season. Their first regular season game is set for September 13. They will host the Dallas Cowboys at MetLife Stadium. The game will be played on Sunday Night Football.

It follows a preseason where the Giants finished with mixed results. Coaches and players say they are excited for a fresh start. Fans across the region are looking forward to opening day. Many hope this season brings a return to the playoffs.

BACKGROUND

The preseason is used for practice games that do not count toward a team's official record.

Why it matters: A strong start to the season can build momentum for the rest of the year.

What to watch: Watch the Giants' season opener on September 13 against the Cowboys.

Source: Giants.com, "New York Giants release official 2026 schedule," <https://www.giants.com/news/nfl-schedule-2026-new-york-giants-tickets-information-cowboys-eagles-commanders>

OUR TEAMS

New York Yankees Won 6-3 in 10 innings at Los Angeles Angels

Cam Schlichter allowed one run over eight innings; New York scored five runs with two outs in the 10th, and David Bednar earned the win with a scoreless ninth.

SOUTHERN MAINE

Maine's Highest Court Rules in Family Case

PORTLAND, MAINE — Maine's highest court recently decided a disagreement between two parents. The case was about whether a father's permission was needed for a certain activity. The court ruled that the mother needed the father's consent. Lawyers for the mother disagree with the decision.

They plan to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review the case. The case shows how family courts sometimes handle difficult disagreements. It also shows how cases can move to higher courts. Courts often try to balance the rights of both parents.

BACKGROUND

Maine's highest court is called the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, and it handles the state's most important legal disputes.

Why it matters: The case shows how courts work to settle disagreements between parents.

What to watch: Watch to see if the U.S. Supreme Court agrees to hear the case.

Source: Portland Press Herald, <https://www.pressherald.com/news/>